



Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed:

On 8-30-04, examiner informed applicant's representative that the 102 and 103 rejections against claims 7, 9-10, 15 and 18-22 have been withdrawn in view of applicant's arguments filed 5-10-04. Examiner agreed that Japan '410 and Smithers fail to teach the claimed sipes in the blocks of both shoulders and thereby fail to teach the limitation of the claimed sipe being formed in a region at a trailing edge of "each of blocks at shoulder sides". Examiner added that there is no motivation to reverse the inclination of the sipes on one side of the equatorial plane of the tire in either of these references so that those sipes satisfy the "substantially parallel" limitation. Examiner noted that claim 11 continues to read on sipes in a single block row. Examiner proposed adding --on both sides of the equatorial plane of the tire-- so as to overcome both Japan '410 and Smithers. On 9-2-04, applicant's representative agreed to the changes in the examiner's amendment.